

# TANF Facts & Info

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## PURPOSE (Return to Index)

The purpose of the TANF program is to provide temporary assistance for the care of dependent children in their own homes or the homes of relatives by furnishing financial, medical and self-sufficiency services. **FUNDING**

TANF is federally funded through a block grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, states are required to contribute money equal to 80% of the amount spent on the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related programs during federal fiscal year 1994. This is the state's Maintenance of Effort (MOE). **TYPES OF TANF BENEFITS**

The state administers five different TANF benefit programs. Two programs are considered assistance by federal definition and three are considered non-assistance programs. The following are the available programs:

**TANF-NEON** &ndash; This is the state's work program and is considered assistance.

**TANF-CHILD** &ndash; These are households with no "work eligible" adults included and is considered assistance; however, time limits do not apply to this category.

**SELF-SUFFICIENCY GRANT** &ndash; This is a one-time lump sum payment to help families who would be otherwise eligible for another program to preserve their independence from long-time dependence on Public Assistance and is not considered assistance.

**TEMP PROGRAM** &ndash; This program provides a monthly payment to meet an immediate episode of need and limited to no more than four months per episode. This is not defined as assistance.

**TANF LOAN** &ndash; Eligible households receive a monthly payment to meet the family's needs until a future anticipated source of income is received. This is not assistance and the expectation is the benefits will be repaid upon receipt of the anticipated income. **TANF ASSISTANCE DEFINED (TANF-NEON and TANF-CHILD)**

Accepting TANF assistance subjects the household to federal and state time limits on receipt of assistance, work participation requirements, child support enforcement activities and requires they be included in federal data reporting.

"Assistance" is defined as cash payments, vouchers and other benefits provided to meet a family's ongoing basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, etc. It includes child care, transportation and other support services for families that are not employed. Excluded from the definition are the following:

- Child care, transportation and support services to meet work related expenses for employed families (even if combined with training and other activities) and during times of temporary unemployment.
  - Services and activities without a monetary value, e.g., domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse and other counseling services; employment and training activities including books and tuition; information and referral; work subsidies to employers; job retention services; etc.
  - Non-recurrent short term benefits for up to 4 months of future needs (with no limitation on retrospective needs). This is not limited to one payment if needed again for a different discrete need.
  - Contributions made to individual development accounts (IDAs).
  - Transportation benefits from a Job Access or Reverse Commute project.
  - Refundable earned income tax credits.
- APPLICATION PROCESS (Return to Index)

Those wishing to apply for any TANF benefit must complete an Application for Assistance and submit it to their local Division of Welfare and Supportive Services office for processing. An eligibility decision is generally made within 45 days from the application date. The Application for Assistance is also an application for Medicaid. In most cases, Medicaid eligibility will be determined in conjunction with the TANF determination. In some instances individuals may qualify for Medicaid only, if they otherwise meet TANF eligibility criteria.

Medicaid coverage may be requested and provided when certain criteria is met up to three months prior to the application month.

An assistance unit which becomes ineligible for a TANF cash assistance payment, may remain eligible for Medicaid up to twelve additional months when certain criteria is met. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** To be eligible for any TANF the following eligibility requirements must be met: Assessment

An assessment is required for each household member to evaluate existing skills, prior work experience and employability. It also determines family needs including job training, child care, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, domestic violence intercession, or other issues which may be barriers to self-sufficiency. Personal Responsibility Plan

A jointly-developed plan of responsibility is established with the head of the household identifying the role of each household member in becoming self-sufficient. The plan is signed within 60 days of TANF approval and includes a date, not more than 24 months later, when it expires. The plan is reviewed at least every six months. If a recipient is a minor parent (under age 18), it will include a provision requiring they meet school attendance requirements, attend parenting skill training and encouraging participation in a mentoring program. Agreement of Cooperation

The head of the household signs an Agreement of Cooperation which includes their responsibilities as a condition of receiving benefits and describes the penalties that may be imposed for failure to comply. Deprivation of Parental Care/Support

One or both natural/adoptive parents must be deceased, absent, incapacitated or the total earned income of both parents must fall within TANF income limits. Children Must be Living in the Home of a Specified Relative (Return to Index)

The child must be living with the individual applying for assistance on their behalf that provides care and supervision and is the child's:

- Father, mother, sister, brother, grandfather, grandmother;
  - Uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, first cousin; OR
  - Stepfather, stepmother, stepsister, stepbrother;
- Persons Who Must be Included in the Assistance Unit

An application for a dependent child must also include, if living in the same household and otherwise eligible:

- any natural or adoptive parent of the dependent child; AND
- any blood-related or adoptive brothers or sisters of the dependent child who are themselves dependent children and meet all other eligibility requirements. Age / School Requirements

Children must be under age 18, OR

Age 18, attending school full time expecting to graduate before age 19; or they have not completed high school but are attending vocational or technical training and the course of study is expected to be completed before age 19. School Attendance

The head of household must ensure their children age 7 to 12 attend school as required by state law and take every

reasonable action to ensure the child is not at risk of failing to advance to the next grade level. Although there is no sanction penalty, failure to attend school or risk of failure to advance must be addressed in the Personal Responsibility Plan. Minor parents must meet school attendance requirements as a condition of eligibility. Immunizations (Return to Index)

The head of household must provide proof immediately, or within six months, all children for whom benefits are received are appropriately immunized. Each household is advised of the availability of standard immunizations through clinics. Exemptions are provided for religious belief or medical conditions. Failure to ensure children are appropriately immunized may result in a sanction. Residency

Applicants must be living in the state with the intention of making Nevada their home permanently, or for an indefinite period. OR

Entering Nevada with a job commitment or seeking employment. Citizenship

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or a qualified non-citizen legally admitted to the United States. Child Support Enforcement Program (CSEP)

The parent(s) of all children must cooperate in establishing paternity or seeking child support from non-custodial parents. TANF is denied or terminated if the caretaker refuses to assist the CSEP or District Attorney in establishing paternity or seeking support. New Employees of Nevada (NEON)

NEON is Nevada's employment and training program whose purpose is to reduce or eliminate dependency by providing employment, education, training and support services to TANF recipients-NEON recipients. NEON participation is an TANF eligibility requirement for all nonexempt household members. Exempt individuals, usually single parents with children under a year old, or minor parents with children under twelve weeks, are given the option to voluntarily participate. Participants are placed in different components including orientation to work, job search workshops, educational activities, skill training and Community Work Experience (CWEP). When mandatory registrants do not cooperate, they are sanctioned and the TANF grant is discontinued.

Support services available to NEON participants include: help with child care, transportation, clothing and special required work items necessary for employment. These may include tools, uniforms, shoes, work permits, physicals, etc. Participants may also receive family counseling, family planning counseling, health referrals, job placement referrals, etc. Furnishing Social Security Numbers

Each TANF member of the household applicant or recipient must provide or apply for a Social Security Number to be eligible for assistance benefits. Cooperation / Reporting Obligations (Return to Index)

TANF households are required to cooperate by providing necessary information to determine initial and ongoing eligibility, amount of assistance and to report changes which may affect their eligibility for TANF benefits assistance. Time Limits

TANF NEON households may receive 24 months of assistance, after which they must remain off for 12 consecutive months, unless they experience a qualifying hardship. The 24 months of benefits need not be consecutive but the 12 month sit-out period is consecutive. A recipient may receive a six month extension to the two-year time limit if the Division's determines the recipient would achieve self-sufficiency if given the additional time needed additional time to achieve self-sufficiency. Receipt of benefits may continue within these time limits until the lifetime limit of 5 years is reached.

A TANF NEON household may receive a hardship exemption from the 5 year lifetime limit when certain criteria are met. No more than 20% of the average monthly number of families may receive an exemption from the time limit. Sanctions

Sanctions are imposed against households who do not cooperate with work requirements or with the terms of their Personal Responsibility Plan. The household is given a 30-day opportunity to correct a first violation. After the 30-day period, TANF cash benefits are terminated; Medicaid benefits may continue. Resources

Liquid and non-liquid resources are evaluated to determine whether or not they are countable. Countable resources cannot exceed \$2,000 per TANF household. When resources exceed this limit the case is ineligible.

Types of countable resources are cash on hand, stocks, bonds, mortgages, deeds of trust, bank accounts, real property, etc. There are certain types or resource amounts which are not counted when determining eligibility such as:

- One automobile.
- The home, including any contiguous land, which is the usual residence of the assistance unit that the household owns or is buying.
- One burial plot for each member of the household.

- Burial funds up to \$1,500 equity value for each household member
- Household goods and personal items. Income, Consideration and Budgeting (Return to Index)

The household members must have countable income within certain limits to be eligible for any TANF benefit. The maximum allowable income is based upon the number of eligible persons in the household. A monthly budget is done for all households with income to determine eligibility without application of disregards. Also, some types of income are counted in this test and not counted in the cash grant computation. If gross income is less than 185% of need 130% of poverty, a cash grant is computed by subtracting allowable disregards from gross earned income. The income of stepparents and responsible parents is also budgeted towards the needs of the TANF household. Need Standards and Payment Amounts

Agency need standards are used to determine eligibility and payment amounts. The need standard includes food, clothing, recreation, personal incidentals, fuel for heating, cooking and water heating, electricity for refrigeration and lights, household supplies, medical chest supplies and shelter.

The following chart provides a guide to income levels and maximum payment amounts. A maximum payment is issued when there is no countable income.

If all or a portion of monthly income is budgetable, the reduction in the grant amount is dollar for dollar. However, there are specific deductions allowed for earned income and application of the earnings disregard of 100% and 50% disregards for certain household members entitled to use them. Allowance of earned income deductions and application of disregards is determined by the caseworker. TANF Need Standard and Payment Allowance Household

Household Size	135% of Poverty	100% Need Standard	TANF Payment Allowance	NNCT 275% Poverty Level	Non-Parent NNCT Payment
1	\$1,127	\$650	\$253	\$2,383	\$4,182
2	\$1,517	\$883	\$353	\$3,183	\$5,651
3	\$1,821	\$1,116	\$453	\$3,983	\$7,121
4	\$2,125	\$1,349	\$553	\$4,783	\$8,591
5	\$2,429	\$1,582	\$653	\$5,583	\$10,061
6	\$2,733	\$1,815	\$753	\$6,383	\$11,531
7	\$3,037	\$2,048	\$853	\$7,183	\$13,001
8	\$3,341	\$2,281	\$953	\$7,983	\$14,471
9	\$3,645	\$2,514	\$1,053	\$8,783	\$15,941
10	\$3,949	\$2,747	\$1,153	\$9,583	\$17,411
11	\$4,253	\$2,980	\$1,253	\$10,383	\$18,881
12	\$4,557	\$3,213	\$1,353	\$11,183	\$20,351
13	\$4,861	\$3,446	\$1,453	\$11,983	\$21,821
14	\$5,165	\$3,679	\$1,553	\$12,783	\$23,291
15	\$5,469	\$3,912	\$1,653	\$13,583	\$24,761
16	\$5,773	\$4,145	\$1,753	\$14,383	\$26,231
17	\$6,077	\$4,378	\$1,853	\$15,183	\$27,701
18	\$6,381	\$4,611	\$1,953	\$15,983	\$29,171
19	\$6,685	\$4,844	\$2,053	\$16,783	\$30,641
20	\$6,989	\$5,077	\$2,153	\$17,583	\$32,111
21	\$7,293	\$5,310	\$2,253	\$18,383	\$33,581
22	\$7,597	\$5,543	\$2,353	\$19,183	\$35,051
23	\$7,901	\$5,776	\$2,453	\$19,983	\$36,521
24	\$8,205	\$6,009	\$2,553	\$20,783	\$37,991
25	\$8,509	\$6,242	\$2,653	\$21,583	\$39,461
26	\$8,813	\$6,475	\$2,753	\$22,383	\$40,931
27	\$9,117	\$6,708	\$2,853	\$23,183	\$42,401
28	\$9,421	\$6,941	\$2,953	\$23,983	\$43,871
29	\$9,725	\$7,174	\$3,053	\$24,783	\$45,341
30	\$10,029	\$7,407	\$3,153	\$25,583	\$46,811
31	\$10,333	\$7,640	\$3,253	\$26,383	\$48,281
32	\$10,637	\$7,873	\$3,353	\$27,183	\$49,751
33	\$10,941	\$8,106	\$3,453	\$27,983	\$51,221
34	\$11,245	\$8,339	\$3,553	\$28,783	\$52,691
35	\$11,549	\$8,572	\$3,653	\$29,583	\$54,161
36	\$11,853	\$8,805	\$3,753	\$30,383	\$55,631
37	\$12,157	\$9,038	\$3,853	\$31,183	\$57,101
38	\$12,461	\$9,271	\$3,953	\$31,983	\$58,571
39	\$12,765	\$9,504	\$4,053	\$32,783	\$60,041
40	\$13,069	\$9,737	\$4,153	\$33,583	\$61,511
41	\$13,373	\$9,970	\$4,253	\$34,383	\$62,981
42	\$13,677	\$10,203	\$4,353	\$35,183	\$64,451
43	\$13,981	\$10,436	\$4,453	\$35,983	\$65,921
44	\$14,285	\$10,669	\$4,553	\$36,783	\$67,391
45	\$14,589	\$10,902	\$4,653	\$37,583	\$68,861
46	\$14,893	\$11,135	\$4,753	\$38,383	\$70,331
47	\$15,197	\$11,368	\$4,853	\$39,183	\$71,801
48	\$15,501	\$11,601	\$4,953	\$39,983	\$73,271
49	\$15,805	\$11,834	\$5,053	\$40,783	\$74,741
50	\$16,109	\$12,067	\$5,153	\$41,583	\$76,211
51	\$16,413	\$12,300	\$5,253	\$42,383	\$77,681
52	\$16,717	\$12,533	\$5,353	\$43,183	\$79,151
53	\$17,021	\$12,766	\$5,453	\$43,983	\$80,621
54	\$17,325	\$12,999	\$5,553	\$44,783	\$82,091
55	\$17,629	\$13,232	\$5,653	\$45,583	\$83,561
56	\$17,933	\$13,465	\$5,753	\$46,383	\$85,031
57	\$18,237	\$13,698	\$5,853	\$47,183	\$86,501
58	\$18,541	\$13,931	\$5,953	\$47,983	\$87,971
59	\$18,845	\$14,164	\$6,053	\$48,783	\$89,441
60	\$19,149	\$14,397	\$6,153	\$49,583	\$90,911
61	\$19,453	\$14,630	\$6,253	\$50,383	\$92,381
62	\$19,757	\$14,863	\$6,353	\$51,183	\$93,851
63	\$20,061	\$15,096	\$6,453	\$51,983	\$95,321
64	\$20,365	\$15,329	\$6,553	\$52,783	\$96,791
65	\$20,669	\$15,562	\$6,653	\$53,583	\$98,261
66	\$20,973	\$15,795	\$6,753	\$54,383	\$99,731
67	\$21,277	\$16,028	\$6,853	\$55,183	\$101,201
68	\$21,581	\$16,261	\$6,953	\$55,983	\$102,671
69	\$21,885	\$16,494	\$7,053	\$56,783	\$104,141
70	\$22,189	\$16,727	\$7,153	\$57,583	\$105,611
71	\$22,493	\$16,960	\$7,253	\$58,383	\$107,081
72	\$22,797	\$17,193	\$7,353	\$59,183	\$108,551
73	\$23,101	\$17,426	\$7,453	\$59,983	\$110,021
74	\$23,405	\$17,659	\$7,553	\$60,783	\$111,491
75	\$23,709	\$17,892	\$7,653	\$61,583	\$112,961
76	\$24,013	\$18,125	\$7,753	\$62,383	\$114,431
77	\$24,317	\$18,358	\$7,853	\$63,183	\$115,901
78	\$24,621	\$18,591	\$7,953	\$63,983	\$117,371
79	\$24,925	\$18,824	\$8,053	\$64,783	\$118,841
80	\$25,229	\$19,057	\$8,153	\$65,583	\$120,311
81	\$25,533	\$19,290	\$8,253	\$66,383	\$121,781
82	\$25,837	\$19,523	\$8,353	\$67,183	\$123,251
83	\$26,141	\$19,756	\$8,453	\$67,983	\$124,721
84	\$26,445	\$19,989	\$8,553	\$68,783	\$126,191
85	\$26,749	\$20,222	\$8,653	\$69,583	\$127,661
86	\$27,053	\$20,455	\$8,753	\$70,383	\$129,131
87	\$27,357	\$20,688	\$8,853	\$71,183	\$130,601
88	\$27,661	\$20,921	\$8,953	\$71,983	\$132,071
89	\$27,965	\$21,154	\$9,053	\$72,783	\$133,541
90	\$28,269	\$21,387	\$9,153	\$73,583	\$135,011
91	\$28,573	\$21,620	\$9,253	\$74,383	\$136,481
92	\$28,877	\$21,853	\$9,353	\$75,183	\$137,951
93	\$29,181	\$22,086	\$9,453	\$75,983	\$139,421
94	\$29,485	\$22,319	\$9,553	\$76,783	\$140,891
95	\$29,789	\$22,552	\$9,653	\$77,583	\$142,361
96	\$30,093	\$22,785	\$9,753	\$78,383	\$143,831
97	\$30,397	\$23,018	\$9,853	\$79,183	\$145,301
98	\$30,701	\$23,251	\$9,953	\$79,983	\$146,771
99	\$31,005	\$23,484	\$10,053	\$80,783	\$148,241
100	\$31,309	\$23,717	\$10,153	\$81,583	\$149,711

For each additional household member add \$158.00 to the 100% Need Standard. Determine the 185% Need Standard and Payment Allowance from the 100% Need Standard and round to the nearest dollar. Subsidized Housing (Return to Index)

Households in subsidized housing, where an eligible household member is the responsible tenant for the rent or mortgage payment, have up to \$76 of the value of the subsidy budgeted as unearned income. If the subsidy value is less than \$76, this amount is budgeted as unearned income.

The following programs are considered subsidized housing:

- HUD Conventional Public Housing
- HUD Section 8 Housing
- FMHA Section 515 Rental Assistance
- HUD Indian Housing - Mutual Help and Rental Assistance
- HUD Transitional Housing (Reno only) Earned Income Disregards

The following are deducted from each household member's gross earnings when certain conditions are met: Earned Income Disregards

- 100% of gross earnings for three months and 85% of gross earnings for the next months, followed by a 75% disregard for three months and up through the twelfth month a 65% disregard. After the earned income disregards are exhausted, allow a Standard Work Expense of \$90 or 20% of gross earnings, whichever is greater.
- The actual amount of child care expenses paid or anticipated to be paid. Stepparent Income (Return to Index)

When the natural parent applying for TANF is married to and living with a stepparent, the stepparent's income is considered towards the needs of the assistance unit. The following are deducted from the stepparent's gross income when certain conditions are met: Standard Work Expense

Deduct \$90 or 20% of gross earnings, whichever is greater, when the stepparent worked. Need Standard Deductions

Deduct the 100% need standard for the stepparent plus any other persons living in the home that are NOT included in the TANF household and claimed by the stepparent as dependents for federal income tax purposes. Support Payment Deductions

Deduct amounts actually paid by the stepparent to persons not living in the home and claimed by the stepparent as

dependents for federal income tax purposes AND payments made by stepparents for alimony and child support.  
Responsible Parent Income

When a minor parent is living with one or both natural/ adoptive parents, the minor parent's income is used to determine eligibility and payment amount for the assistance unit. The following amounts are deducted from the responsible parent's gross income when certain conditions are met: Standard Work Expense Deduct \$90 or 20% of gross earnings, whichever is greater. Need Standard Deductions (Return to Index)

Deduct the 100% need standard for the responsible parent plus any other persons living in the home who are NOT included in the TANF household and claimed by the responsible parent as dependents for federal income tax purposes.

Deduct amounts actually paid by the responsible parents to persons not living in the home and claimed by the responsible parent as dependents for federal income tax purposes AND payments made for alimony and child support.